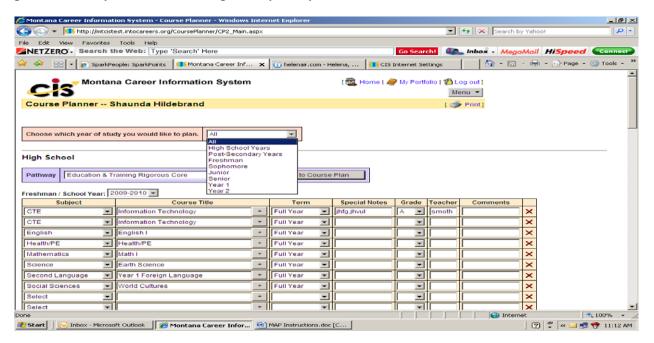# Montana Achievement Plan (MAP) System

The Montana Achievement Plan (MAP) System is an individualized course planner based on Montana's Big Sky Pathways that provides an easy to use tool that helps students prepare for and seek post-secondary educational and training opportunities by giving students a map to guide them through available courses that will prepare them for the next step toward entering the world of work. The MAP System also provides students accurate information on what courses it takes to get a post-secondary degree or certificate in whatever field they choose and what institution offers it in Montana. Users can compare: transferability and requirement differences from 2 year to 4 year institutions; Major requirements by institution; and requirements of different majors. Our goal is for every student to have a MAP for their chosen Big Sky Pathway.

To enter the MAP system, login to MCIS using your portfolio username and password, then select "My Portfolio" from the top right of the main page. Once in "My Portfolio" select "My Course Plan" from the left nav bar.

The first option on the page is how to display information. The user can choose to show: "All" which will include all high school and post-secondary years; "High School Years" which will show the 4 years of high school; "Postsecondary Years" which shows the years in the plan for post-secondary education; or a specific year by itself.
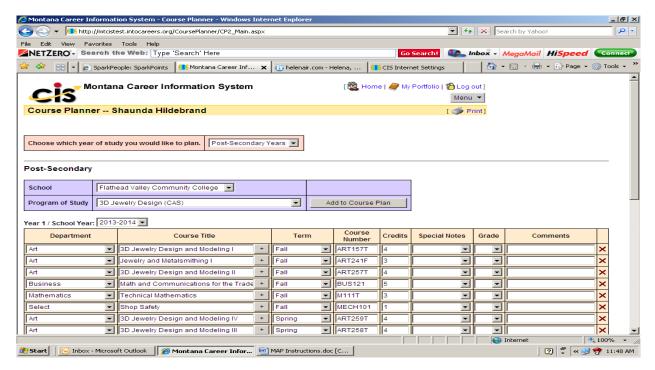

The next option is to choose a "Pathway". The system is loaded with a "Workforce Prep Core" and a "Rigorous Core" for each of the 16 Big Sky Pathways. After selecting a Pathway, click "Add to Course Plan". A window will pop-up showing the "Requirements" and the courses by year while also providing the user with the option to add or replace courses in the existing plan by year or all four years. It is recommended that the user select "replace" as "add" will add

courses to those listed and then the user will have to delete each course that is a duplicate or unwanted. Soon the user will be able to print the pop-up window so they can compare different recommended course plans, although this can be done now through the print screen option.

Next the user can select the school year that corresponds with each year and on the same line "Requirements" will be displayed that correspond to the selected Pathway. The "Requirements" can be edited through the "Utilities" function in the administrative tools if you choose to use only your schools courses/pathways. This will allow schools to put in, for example, a note that sophomores should take the PSAT if they are planning to attend a 4 year post-secondary school. This is also easily done through the messaging system in MCIS.

Courses in the plan can be changed at the user's discretion. For example, if a user wants to take an honors class they can select the "+" next to the course title and choose another course in that subject area or type in a course title of their own. Users can also add rows for more courses, add more courses, add comments/notes, etc. When a user makes changes the "Save Information" button at the bottom of the course year will turn from black to red signifying the user can and should save their changes. The red "X" at the far right of the course information is to delete an entire row or course, a prompt window will come up asking if the user is sure they want to delete.

On the post-secondary side, users can select a Montana school (currently only 2 year COT's, Community Colleges, and tribal schools are loaded) and then select from the school's list of degree offerings or "Program of Study". Same as in the high school portion, once the user selects a school and a program of study a window will pop-up providing the courses required and the option to "Add" or "Replace" by year, it is recommended that the user select "Replace".

Users see the term offered, course number, credits, etc. Note that there is a "Department" titled "You Pick", the purpose of this is to show students that they have to choose between courses or pick a course of their choice in a particular subject area. As in the high school section, users can select different courses by department to personalize their course plan.

Users can see what degree options the various schools in the state offer, differences between degree options and requirements from school to school, as well as, what courses a student will need to take to get a degree in a program of study (this will help show the relevance of math, science, English, and other high school classes while showing opportunities/benefits of taking dual credit or tech prep courses in high school). This will also make registering for classes easier as students will know what courses are necessary to get their degree. It is also hoped that having this information will help students feel more confident about their future, having a map to follow is less stressful than heading down an unknown path.

For more information, training, or if you have questions, please contact Shaunda Hildebrand at shildebrand@mt.gov or call 406-444-3239.